

MEDIA RESOURCES

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SOLAR DECATHLON OFFICIAL ONLINE RESOURCES



Visit www.SolarDecathlon.gov



Read the Solar Decathlon news blog: www.SolarDecathlon.gov/blog/
and check out the team blog: www.solardecathlon.gov/team_blogs.html



Follow the Twitter account: www.twitter.com/Solar_Decathlon
and join the conversation: [#SD2011](https://twitter.com/hashtag/SD2011)



Become a fan on Facebook: www.facebook.com/DOESolarDecathlon



Download high-resolution images on the Solar Decathlon Flickr page:
www.flickr.com/photos/solar_decathlon



Watch team video content: www.youtube.com/doesolardecathlon
and view event B-Roll: apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/b_roll_sd.cfm



Check in on Foursquare and enjoy the event!
https://foursquare.com/solar_decathlon

TO LINCOLN & MLK MEMORIALS

*** Members of the Media:** Upon your arrival, please check in at the media trailer to receive your media badge and meet with Solar Decathlon organizers who will be able to provide information on the event, workshops and individual houses, and facilitate interview requests.



POTOMAC RIVER



KEY

- First Aid
- Food
- Restrooms
- Bicycle Parking
- Shuttle Drop Off
- Information
- Parking (East Potomac Park)
- L+F** Lost/Found Reunification

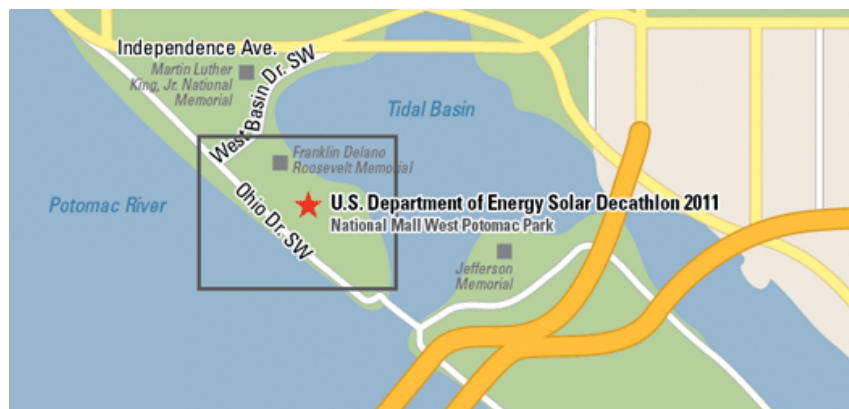
HOUSES

- 101** New Zealand (Victoria University of Wellington)
- 102** Team Florida (The University of South Florida, Florida State University, the University of Central Florida, and the University of Florida)
- 103** Tidewater Virginia (Old Dominion University and Hampton University)
- 104** Team New Jersey (Rutgers - The State University of New Jersey and New Jersey Institute of Technology)
- 201** Purdue University
- 202** The University of Tennessee
- 203** Middlebury College
- 204** Parsons The New School for Design and Stevens Institute of Technology
- 205** Appalachian State University
- 206** Florida International University
- 301** Canada (University of Calgary)
- 302** Team Belgium (Ghent University)
- 303** Team China (Tongji University)
- 304** University of Maryland
- 305** University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 401** Team Massachusetts (Massachusetts College of Art and Design and University of Massachusetts at Lowell)
- 402** The Southern California Institute of Architecture and California Institute of Technology
- 403** Team New York (The City College of New York)
- 404** The Ohio State University

TO JEFFERSON MEMORIAL

TRANSPORTATION TO WEST POTOMAC PARK

Upon arriving to the event, please visit the media trailer located on the northwest end of the solar village. See the enclosed map for further details.



BY METRO AND FREE SHUTTLE (THERE IS NO ON-SITE PARKING)

We encourage media to use public transportation if at all possible. A free public shuttle will transport media and visitors from the Smithsonian Metro Station to the event site in West Potomac Park. Shuttles will run at least every 15 minutes during the times noted below.

All free shuttles pick-up from the Smithsonian Metro Station (blue/orange lines), with the exception of additional shuttles from Capitol Hill on Sept. 22. Be sure to use the exit designated for 12th Street and Independence Avenue. Look for the Solar Decathlon sign to find the bus stop.

Wed., Sept. 21 (Media Preview Day, 12:30-4pm)

Shuttle for media and student participants

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Thurs., Sept. 22 (Opening Ceremony & VIP ribbon cutting, 10-11am)

Shuttle for media and student participants

7:15 AM – 4:30 PM

Additional shuttle from Capitol Hill for media and VIPs*

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**Capitol Hill shuttle will pick-up/drop-off from Garfield Circle on the House side (Maryland Ave and 1st Street, SW) and Peace Circle on the Senate side (Pennsylvania Avenue and 1st Street, NW)*

Fri., Sept. 23 – Sun., Oct. 2 (Houses open to the public)

Shuttle for media and student participants

7:15 AM – 9:15 AM (every day)

Shuttle for media and general public

9:30 AM – 3:30 PM** (weekdays)

9:30 AM – 6:30 PM (weekends)

***On Sept. 23, the shuttle will circulate until 4:30 p.m. to accommodate Building Industry Day workshop attendees*

TRANSPORTATION TO WEST POTOMAC PARK (CONT'D)

BY TAXI

Instruct a taxi driver to drop you off at West Potomac Park, which is located on Ohio Drive SW, between the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial and the Potomac River.

A map showing the event location can be found here:

www.solardecathlon.gov/directions.html.

The media trailer is situated near the northern-most baseball diamond in West Potomac Park, on the northwest end of the solar village.

BY BICYCLE

West Potomac Park is readily accessible by bicycle. Ample bike racks will be available on site.

ON FOOT

West Potomac Park is approximately 1.3 miles from the Smithsonian Metro station, and 1.5 miles from the Farragut West Metro station. The park is in close proximity to the Tidal Basin, Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, and the new Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial.

BY CAR

Extremely limited parking will be available near the West Potomac Park site on a first-come, first-served basis. **We strongly urge media to consider traveling via the free shuttle, taxi, or another method described above.**

SATELLITE MEDIA TRUCKS

Generally speaking, the best time for satellite trucks to be on site is from 7:30 AM – 9:30 AM. If you would like to bring a satellite truck to Solar Decathlon during these times or at another time, please let us know in advance (bgoldstein@stratacomm.net, 202-905-3339 cell), so we can help facilitate coordination with the National Park Service and arrange parking.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE SOLAR DECATHLON?

The U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon is an award-winning program that challenges collegiate teams to design, build, and operate solar-powered houses that are cost-effective, energy-efficient, and attractive. The winner of the competition is the team that best blends affordability, consumer appeal, and design excellence with optimal energy production and maximum efficiency.

The competition shows consumers how to save money and energy with affordable clean energy products that are available today. The Solar Decathlon also provides participating students with hands-on experience and unique training that prepares them to enter our nation's clean energy workforce.

The first Solar Decathlon was held in 2002; the competition has since occurred biennially in 2005, 2007, 2009, and 2011. Solar Decathlon 2011 will take place at West Potomac Park in Washington, D.C., September 23 – October 2, 2011. Open to the public free of charge, visitors can tour the houses, gather ideas to use in their own homes, and learn how energy-saving features can help them save money today.

WHO ARE THE TEAMS?

- **Appalachian State University**
- **Canada** (University of Calgary)
- **Florida International University**
- **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**
- **University of Maryland**
- **Middlebury College**
- **New Zealand** (Victoria University of Wellington)
- **The Ohio State University**
- **Parsons NS Stevens** (Parsons The New School for Design and Stevens Institute of Technology, a team that includes the Milano School of International Affairs, Management and Urban Policy at The New School)
- **Purdue University**
- **The Southern California Institute of Architecture and California Institute of Technology**
- **Team Belgium** (Ghent University)
- **Team China** (Tongji University)
- **Team Florida** (The University of South Florida, Florida State University, the University of Central Florida, and the University of Florida)
- **Team Massachusetts** (Massachusetts College of Art and Design and University of Massachusetts at Lowell)
- **Team New Jersey** (Rutgers — The State University of New Jersey and New Jersey Institute of Technology)
- **Team New York** (The City College of New York)
- **The University of Tennessee**
- **Tidewater Virginia** (Old Dominion University and Hampton University)

Learn more about each of the teams by visiting www.solardecathlon.gov/teams.html

WHEN AND WHERE IS SOLAR DECATHLON 2011?

The Solar Decathlon 2011 will be held Friday, September 23 – Sunday, October 2 in West Potomac Park located on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The competition will be open to the public on:

- Weekdays: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Weekends: 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

In addition to public open hours, we invite the media to:

- **Media Preview Day – Wed., Sept. 21**
 - Program and guided tour of solar village 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
 - House access and interview availability 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- **Opening Ceremony – Thurs., Sept. 22**
 - All team photo 9:15 AM – 9:30 AM
 - Program and VIP ribbon cutting 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
 - Interview availability and house access 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- **Final Awards Ceremony – Sat., Oct. 1**
 - Program and winner announcement 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM
- **Victory Celebration Reception – Sat., Oct. 1**
 - People's Choice Award announcement 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Additional announcements throughout the week:

- **Affordability Contest Results** Tues., Sept. 27 – 2:30 PM
- **Architecture Contest Results*** Wed., Sept. 28 – 3:15 PM*
- **Engineering Contest Results** Thurs., Sept. 29 – 2:30 PM
- **Communications Contest Results** Fri., Sept. 30 – 2:30 PM
- **Market Appeal Contest Results** Sat., Oct. 1 – 2:30 PM
(Announced in conjunction with overall winner)

**The Architecture Contest results will be announced on Capitol Hill at the U.S. Capitol Visitors Center at 3:15 PM on Wed., Sept. 28. Please allow ample time to enter security at the Visitor Center. All other announcements will take place in the Solar Decathlon Main Tent at West Potomac Park.*



WHAT IS THE COMPETITION?

The U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon is a competition that challenges collegiate teams from around the world to design, build and operate solar-powered houses that are affordable, highly energy efficient, attractive, and easy to live in. These students spend almost two years creating houses to compete in ten contests on the National Mall. Each worth 100 points, the ten contests for Solar Decathlon 2011 are:

- Affordability
- Appliances
- Architecture
- Comfort Zone
- Communications
- Energy Balance
- Engineering
- Home Entertainment
- Hot Water
- Market Appeal

Details on each of the contests can be found here:

www.solardecathlon.gov/contests.html

The team with the most points at the end of the competition wins. The winning team produces a house that:

- Is cost-effective, attractive, and easy to live in
- Maintains comfortable and healthy indoor environmental conditions
- Supplies energy to household appliances for cooking, cleaning and entertainment
- Provides adequate hot water
- Balances energy production and consumption

Details on the rules of the competition can be found here:

www.solardecathlon.gov/rules.html

HISTORY OF SOLAR DECATHLON

SINCE THE FIRST SOLAR DECATHLON IN 2002, THE EVENT HAS:

- Involved 92 collegiate teams, which pursued multidisciplinary course curricula to study the requirements for designing and building energy efficient, solar-powered houses
- Established a worldwide reputation as a successful educational program and workforce development opportunity for thousands of students
- Affected the lives of 15,000 collegiate participants
- Expanded its outreach to middle school students by inviting schools in the Washington, D.C., area to visit on class tours
- Grown to include Solar Decathlon Europe (2009, 2012) and Solar Decathlon China (2013), in addition to the fifth edition of the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon in 2011

IN 2009, THE SOLAR DECATHLON:

- Provided 307,502 house visits to the public over 10 days
- Offered 32 workshops onsite for the public and held a dedicated day of workshops for builders and industry, which were attended by over 500 professionals
- Partnered with the National Education Association to broadcast daily educational programming to classrooms around the nation
- Reached millions of readers and viewers in markets across the globe through newspapers, radio, TV, and online coverage

WHERE ARE THE PAST SOLAR DECATHLON HOUSES? ARE THEY FOR SALE?

Since 2002, teams have constructed 91 houses for the Solar Decathlon competition. The houses from prior events—now located throughout the United States and around the world—continue to serve numerous education, conservation, and community-oriented functions.

To view an interactive map displaying where the Solar Decathlon houses are now, please visit: www.solardecathlon.gov/where_now.html